

NORDBOERNES KIRKE THE NORSE CHURCH

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Nordboernes kirke

Jeg forestiller mig, at jeg ankommer til nordboernes bosted i skumringen. Som en ensom vandrer i ødemarken, der pludselig ser bygninger og lys fra vindue- og døråbninger. Rundt omkring huset viser husdyrene uro ved synet af den fremmede, og snart dukker flere menneskeskikkelser op. På vagt – er jeg en ven eller en fjende?

Det kan kun være en drøm. Nordboerne forsvandt fra Grønland for flere hundrede år siden, og tilbage er kun ruinerne af deres gårde. I Sydgrønland ligger ruinen af kirken Hvalsø.

Selv om vi besøger den berømte ruin på en solskinsdag i august, så kan vi med lidt god vilje godt forestille os, hvor hårdt livet må have været her langt inde i den dybe fjord i Sydgrønland. I fordums tid har der måske været et bedre klima, og dermed mere foder til husdyrene, men ellers står landskabet lige så øde tilbage, som det må have gjort, da nordboerne boede her.

Ruinerne omfatter Hvalsø Kirke og tilhørende stormandsgård med bolig, stalde og hølader, forrådshuse, dyrefolde m.v. Arealet omkring omfatter den gamle hjemmemark, hvor nordboerne producerede hø til vinterfoder.

Skriftlige islandske kilder fortæller, at stedet var beboet fra omkring år 985 til en gang i løbet af 1400-tallet.

The Norse church

I imagine that I arrive at the residence of the Norse in the dusk. As a lonely wandering in the wilderness, suddenly catching sight of buildings and lights from windows and doorways. Around the houses, the livestock shows unrest at the sight of the stranger, and soon several human forms appear. Watch out – do they accept me as a friend or an enemy?

It can only be a dream. The Norse disappeared from Greenland several hundred years ago, and the remains are only the ruins of their houses. In South Greenland the ruin of the Church of Hvalsey is located.

Although we visit the famous ruin on a sunny day in August, we can imagine, with a little goodwill, how hard life must have been here, deep in the fjord in South Greenland. In times gone by there may have been a better climate, and thus more feed for the livestock, but otherwise the landscape is as deserted as it must have been, when the Norse lived here.

The ruins include the Hvalsey Church and the magnate's farm, including a dwelling complex, hall, byres and barns, storeroom buildings and livestock folds etc. The areas around the buildings include the old home fields, where the Norse produced hay for winter fodder.

Written Icelandic sources tell us that the place was inhabited from around the year 985 until some time during the 15th century.



Hvalsø kirkeruin, august 2015

Hvalsey church ruin, august 2015



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KOLOFON

*Ugens foto: Nordboernes kirke
Af Keld Jensen*

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*Photo of the week: The Norse church
By Keld Jensen*

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